(b) if so, the reasons therefor and how many persons have actually been killed/injured by wild animals during the last three years; and

(c) the remedial steps Government propose to take to ensure the safety of villagers in those areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Due to unprecedented snow fall this year on the mountain ranges of Pir Panjal Range, several animals migrated to lower altitudes. As a result, there has been a marginal increase in the attack on human beings by these animals. As reported by State Government in last three years, 19 cases of human killing have been reported due to attack by wild animals.

(c) Following steps have been taken by the Government to ensure safety of villagers in the affected areas-

- Increased awareness among the villagers about the behaviour of the wild animals.
- Mobile anti-poaching and rescue squads have been provided.
- Modem equipments have been provided to the staff for trapping of animals in the villages.
- Funds are provided under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes to the State for development of various Protected Areas.

Amendment of Law

†1905. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend the law made for protecting the existence of environment and wild animals;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that protected animals from national parks/ sanctuaries and rare botanical species are rapidly heading towards their extinction;

(d)if so, the details thereof; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(e) if not, the details of efforts being made by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Studies have revealed a marginal decline of animals and plants in national parks/sanctuaries.

(e) The steps taken for protection of animals and plants are as follows—

- The endangered animals have been included in the Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 and get maximum protection.
- States Governments have notified important habitats of wild animals as National Parks and Sanctuaries. Government of India provides technical and financial assistance for management and development of the protected areas.
- Under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes financial assistance is provided for infrastructure, communication, supply of arms and ammunition for the protected areas.
- Scientific survey of flora and fauna has been initiated.
- In-situ and ex-situ conservation of threatened species of animals and plants has been initiated.
- A National Wildlife Action Plan (2002—2016) has been launched with several aetiion points and priority projects for conservation and protection of wildlife in the country.

Total forest area

†1906. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the total forest area of the country, State-wise;

(b) the total amount spent by each State on afforestation during the last three years;

(c) the total revenue earned from the forests during the said period;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.